

I mention these again to emphasize there is a way in the United States to get higher education no matter what your circumstances.

One of them wanted to be a teacher. It was a dream the university made possible because their flexibility made her course schedule fit into her life schedule. She already had a son and a job, and she spoke about her work with the teaching program. She had to do student teaching, just like everybody does, and one day she told one of the students in her class how smart he was. He beamed and said, "You know, I wasn't smart until you came." That is what sold her on a teaching career. She could see in his eyes he had come to believe in himself because someone else believed in him. She spoke of the importance of using your gifts and talents to encourage others to be the best they can be.

When it comes down to it, that is the sum of what an education is all about, learning to reach out to others so we use all our gifts and talents to make this a better world. Under this bill, there is the capability, if you are dedicating yourself in these areas, to take advantage of some special benefits that are available.

Another graduate spoke with pride at how hard he worked to earn his degree and how every moment had been worth it. He too had a family. He mentioned the logic of an online university having a football team and suggested that would truly be fantasy football. For him, one of the most important parts of the experience had been the mentors who worked with him, supported him, and shared his joy when he earned his degree. He was certain his degree would open doors for him and change his life. He was looking forward to getting involved in the alumni program so everyone in his class, and others, could keep in touch and follow each other's successes.

At traditional universities, that is an even more important part of college life, keeping in touch and following each other's successes.

Another speaker told of the difficulties we all face, and said, "Don't ever tell me you don't have time in your life or that it is too tough." Her philosophy reminded me of a favorite motto of my own family—TGAPA which stands for Trust in God and Push Ahead because that is exactly what she has done. Despite the problems she has had to face, which was the loss of two of her children and a husband who was facing several health problems, she forged ahead, worked at her own pace, and earned her degree.

Another speaker who had a message to share was Ngozika Ughanze from Texas—originally from Nigeria—who was one of 10 children. Her father was very concerned about his children and the importance of their schooling so he sent all 10 to school to learn English. It started her on the road to higher education that she has continued to follow all her life. In her words, "The more I

learn, the more I want to learn." She left Nigeria with her husband in 1997 because they wanted to get their own piece of the cake. She said, "I believe if you work hard, then you are able to live here."

The problem for her, as it was and is for so many, was finding the time to get it done. The only way she could make any progress was to cut things out of her schedule. That meant giving up some of her favorite things, such as television and shopping. It wasn't going to be easy to pursue a college education because of her obligations to her family—she has seven children—but she made it happen. She made it happen despite having to relocate four times because of Hurricane Katrina. She made it happen despite missing some deadlines, which meant she had to work harder to catch up, again because of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, which also got involved in it. She made it happen because she refused to accept any other outcome.

She used her family time to study with her children. She enjoyed getting them involved almost as much as her children loved being a part of their mommy's project. As she received her degree, three of her own children are attending college and one day will receive their own degrees.

There were nearly 90 graduates in the hall, representing 29 States, but the ones watching online and getting their diploma online represent 42 States and 2 countries and ranged from 22 to 63 in age. A remarkable group of men and women. Although I have only noted the dreams of a few, each of them had their own story to tell about their degree, how they earned it, what they planned to do with it, and how they hoped to use what they learned to make the world a better place.

I was very pleased to be a part of that ceremony that honored such a spirited group for having laid the groundwork for a great life. They are all to be congratulated for earning their degrees and for making another of their life's dreams come true. That is what we want for the people of the United States, regardless of age. It doesn't matter whether you are 22 or 18 or 63 or 94. I got to see a diploma given to a man this spring who was 94 and who was pleased to finally get his degree. That is possible in America, and this bill helps to make that dream a reality in conjunction with the hard work of the students.

It isn't easy, and it is even more difficult if you are in situations where you have a family, you have a job, and you have to maintain those to maintain your family. So we are doing what is possible to make that burden as easy as possible, and we hope we will have a lot of support. We would encourage people who have amendments to get those down here so we can complete this in a timely manner so we can do the other 80 percent of higher education that also needs to be done and that we have been hoping to get done since last year.

So our work is cut out for us, but from these examples, you can see the people out there are worth working for. We owe it to them. We have the chance to do this, so let us do it now.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO TAD DUNBAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, I rise today to honor Tad Dunbar, a Northern Nevada institution. Tad has been a part of the newscast for KOLO-TV for over 35 years, and has been involved in broadcasting for over 48 years.

At the age of 15, Tad began his media career as a disc jockey for a radio station in Palestine, TX. He has been a broadcaster ever since, honing his journalistic skills even as a high school and college student. His work attracted attention from broadcasters in Abilene, TX, where he landed his first job. Before he came to Nevada, he worked as a newscaster in Midland, Laredo, and Corpus Christi.

In September of 1969, Tad moved to Reno and became an anchorman for News Channel 8. For almost four decades, he has been a fixture on television throughout northern Nevada. Tad is a man of numerous talents, and has tackled the roles of assignment editor, photographer, film editor, writer, and producer. During his time at Channel 8, Tad has covered stories that captured the hearts and minds of all Nevadans, including the Kennedy assassination and the Priscilla Ford trial.

He recounts one of the most memorable moments of his tenure as when the News Channel 8 studio ignited in flame a few years ago in the middle of his newscast. When asked about it later, KOLO station manager Matt James joked that "that was probably one of the few newscasts [Tad] didn't get to finish."

In addition to his daily duties as an anchorman, Tad has deeply involved himself in philanthropy throughout the years. He serves on advisory boards for several nonprofit organizations, and has played an integral role in "Sheepdip," an organization that raises money for scholarships at the University of Nevada. In addition, Tad is a devoted family man. He is married to his wonderful wife Minda, with whom he loves to cook and enjoy fine wine.

Tad is leaving KOLO-TV at the end of July. His unique journalistic style and his affable personality will be greatly missed. I know I join with the entire northern Nevada community in wishing Tad the best on well-earned retirement.